

REMARKS

An early and favorable action on the merits of the claimed invention is requested.

Claims 1-7 has been canceled, without prejudice.

The Office is urged to appreciate that the published application contained a set of 17 claims on pages 10 and 11 which were amended by inserting the set of claims 1-7 shown on the attached page 10 which includes the header "14-11-2000" in the upper left hand corner. These claims 1-7 have been deleted above and new claims 8-14 have been added.

Claims 8-15 have been added and are pending. The pending claims 8-15 are similar to claims 10-12 and 15-17 of the parent application Serial No. 09/831,161, which were withdrawn from consideration of the parent application. See, the attached copy of the Office Action dated May 7, 2002, issued in the parent application Serial No. 09/831,161.

The specification has been amended as provided in the parent application Serial No. 09/831,161. No new matter has been added.

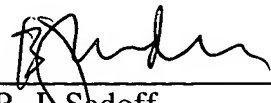
Attached is a PTO-1449 Form which includes a listing of the art of record in the parent application Serial No. 09/831,161. Return of an initialed copy of the attached PTO-1449 Form, is requested pursuant to MPEP §609. Further copies of the cited references are not believed to be required at this time however the Examiner is requested to advise the undersigned if otherwise.

CANCEDDA et al.
Appl. No. Div of SN 09/831,161
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The claims are submitted to be in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: 
B. J. Sadoff
Reg. No. 36,663

BJS:plb
1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor
Arlington, VA 22201-4714
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100